

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

Economic Indicators

February 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	154,871,000	2,157,849
Employed	142,065,000	1,961,103
Unemployed	12,806,000	196,746
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	9.1%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 979.90	\$ 698.04
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.0	42.0
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.90	\$ 16.62

Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Myrtle Beach MSA	4.87%
Florence MSA	3.25%
Spartanburg MSA	2.44%
Charleston MSA	2.18%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2012	2011
U.S. Participation Rate	63.9%	64.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.4%	59.8%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.6%	58.4%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.0%	53.5%

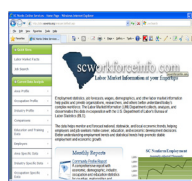
United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	2.9%
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In the News

SCWorks Has a New LMI Website

SCWorks has put Labor Market Information at your fingertips! Find employment statistics, job forecasts, wages and demographics to help you better understand today's complex workforce.



<http://www.scworkforceinfo.com>

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Employment
9,864



Unemployment
4,137



Unemployment
Rate 0.2%



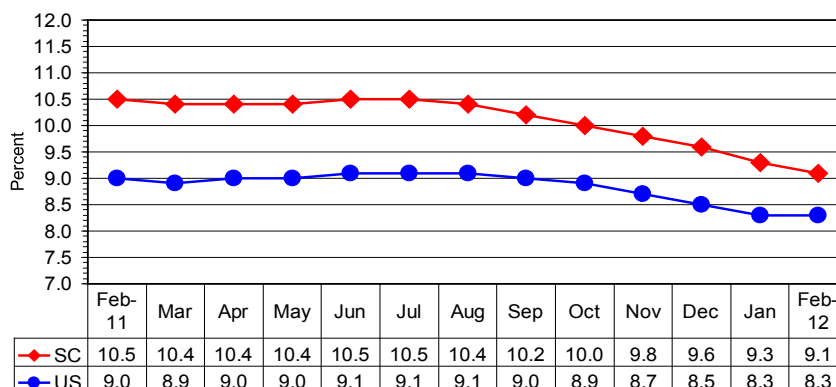
Unemployment Rate Falls for the Seventh Month

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 9.3 percent in January to 9.1 percent in February, reflecting a seven-month trend of rate declines. Increases in employment within the Leisure and Hospitality, Professional and Business Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance industries helped add 9,864 people to the employed rolls. This made February the third largest month-to-month gain in employment in South Carolina since 1976, which was the first year the Bureau of Labor Statistics made the monthly data series available.

In February, the number of individuals employed totaled 1,961,103, while the unemployed fell by 4,137 to 196,746. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained flat at 8.3 percent for February.

Since February 2011, there has been little change in the overall labor force; however, employment has improved, climbing about 32,560. Over the year, employment increases have been highest in Horry County (+5,430) and Richland County (+4,750), with Greenville, Charleston, and Beaufort Counties also reporting increases of over 4,400 each.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
February 2011 through February 2012



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2011 benchmark.

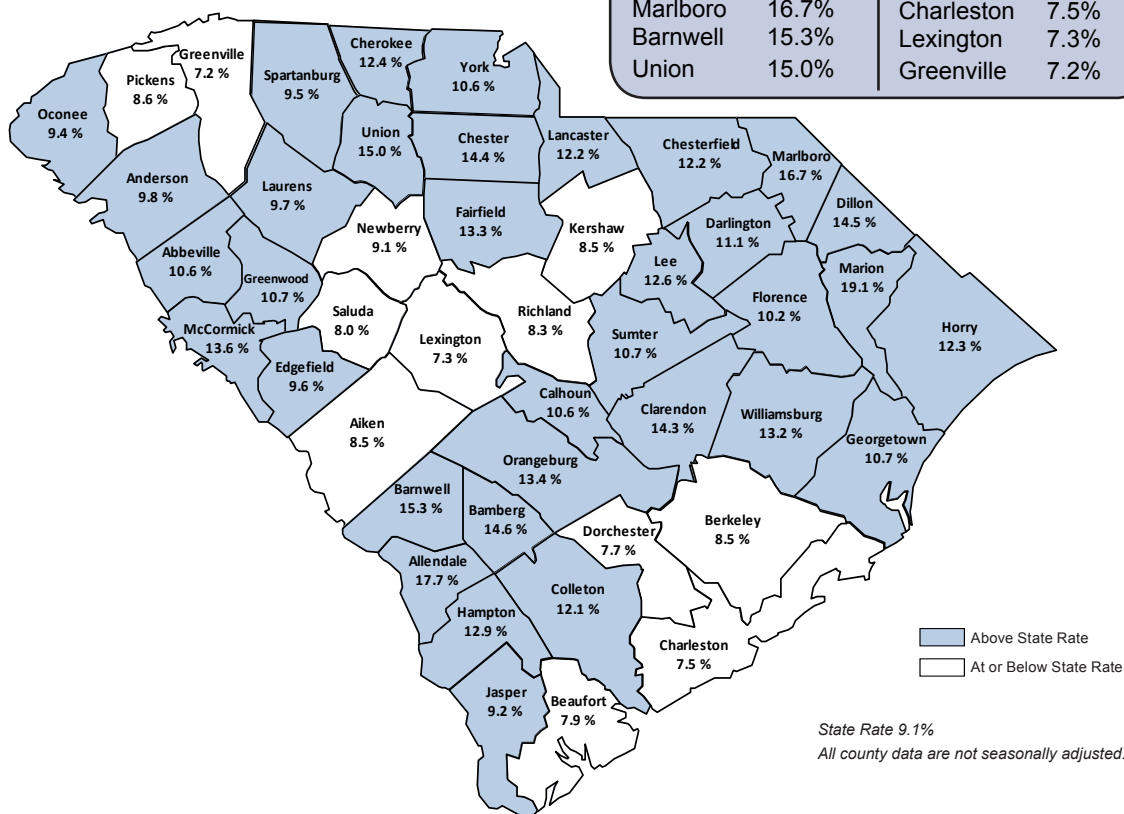
February Unemployment Rates by County

State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	12.3
Rhode Island	11.0
California	10.9
D.C.	9.9
North Carolina	9.9
Mississippi	9.5
Florida	9.4
Georgia	9.1
Illinois	9.1
South Carolina	9.1
New Jersey	9.0
Michigan	8.8
Oregon	8.8
Arizona	8.7
Kentucky	8.7
New York	8.5
Indiana	8.4
United States	8.3
Washington	8.2
Idaho	8.0
Tennessee	8.0
Colorado	7.8
Connecticut	7.8
Alabama	7.6
Arkansas	7.6
Ohio	7.6
Pennsylvania	7.6
Missouri	7.4
New Mexico	7.2
West Virginia	7.2
Alaska	7.1
Maine	7.1
Texas	7.1
Delaware	7.0
Louisiana	7.0
Massachusetts	6.9
Wisconsin	6.9
Maryland	6.5
Hawaii	6.4
Montana	6.2
Kansas	6.1
Oklahoma	6.0
Minnesota	5.7
Utah	5.7
Virginia	5.7
Wyoming	5.4
Iowa	5.3
New Hampshire	5.2
South Dakota	4.3
Nebraska	4.0
North Dakota	3.1

Twenty-four of the 46 counties in South Carolina saw declines in their unemployment rates for February, with York and Chester Counties having the largest decreases, 1.9 and 1.0 percent, respectively. Unemployment rate increases were reported in 18 counties. The largest gains were in Anderson and Darlington Counties (0.8 percent each), and four counties showed no change from the previous month. Since February 2011, only one county (Edgefield) has seen an increase in its unemployment rate. York County dropped 4.9 percent over the year, primarily due to people leaving the labor force.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	19.1%	Beaufort	7.9%
Allendale	17.7%	Dorchester	7.7%
Marlboro	16.7%	Charleston	7.5%
Barnwell	15.3%	Lexington	7.3%
Union	15.0%	Greenville	7.2%



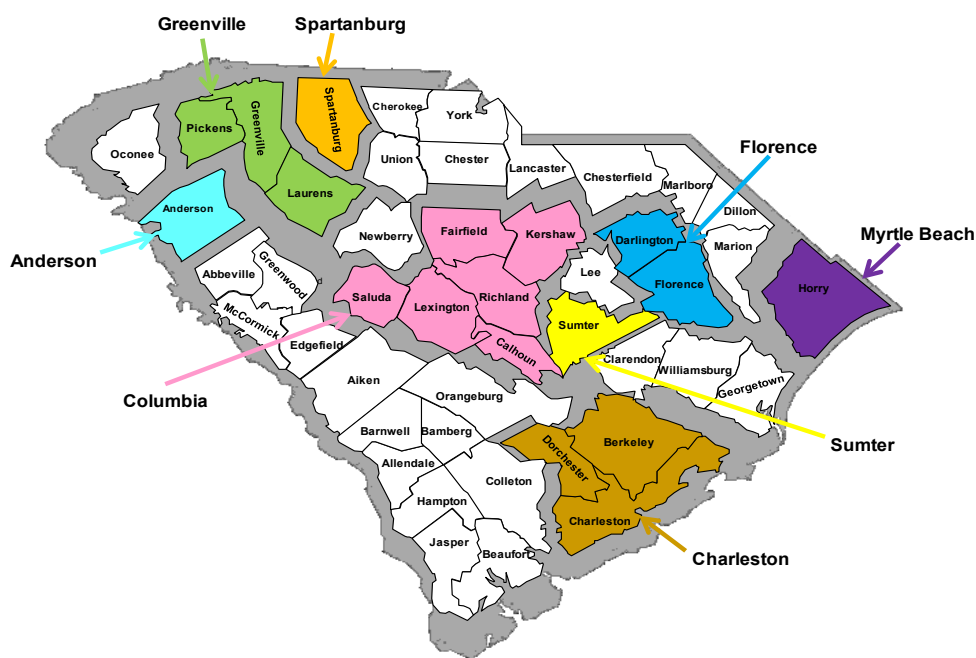
Unemployed			Unemployed			Unemployed		
Areas	February 2012	February 2011	Areas	February 2012	February 2011	Areas	February 2012	February 2011
Abbeville	1,134	1,402	Darlington	3,418	3,629	Lee	1,036	1,111
Aiken	6,339	6,846	Dillon	1,915	2,149	Lexington	9,748	10,491
Allendale	591	585	Dorchester	5,252	5,677	Marion	2,296	2,569
Anderson	8,136	8,856	Edgefield	1,072	1,019	Marlboro	1,942	2,160
Bamberg	900	937	Fairfield	1,465	1,518	McCormick	455	554
Barnwell	1,302	1,313	Florence	6,450	7,320	Newberry	1,661	1,916
Beaufort	5,081	5,678	Georgetown	3,182	3,705	Oconee	2,920	3,385
Berkeley	7,227	7,618	Greenville	16,319	18,951	Orangeburg	5,514	5,855
Calhoun	724	724	Greenwood	3,307	3,570	Pickens	5,068	5,155
Charleston	13,265	14,731	Hampton	1,004	1,144	Richland	15,198	16,246
Cherokee	3,072	3,443	Horry	15,250	17,472	Saluda	733	883
Chester	2,090	2,535	Jasper	963	1,059	Spartanburg	12,677	14,161
Chesterfield	2,286	2,710	Kershaw	2,522	2,967	Sumter	4,786	5,215
Clarendon	1,781	1,991	Lancaster	3,745	4,602	Union	1,713	1,954
Colleton	2,074	2,285	Laurens	2,995	3,494	Williamsburg	2,149	2,245
						York	11,721	17,849

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) February 2012



Catawba WIA	11.2%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	7.2%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	9.1%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	10.9%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	8.1%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	12.2%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	10.6%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	7.8%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	9.9%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	10.3%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	12.1%
www.wrcog.org	
WorkLink WIA	9.4%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) February 2012



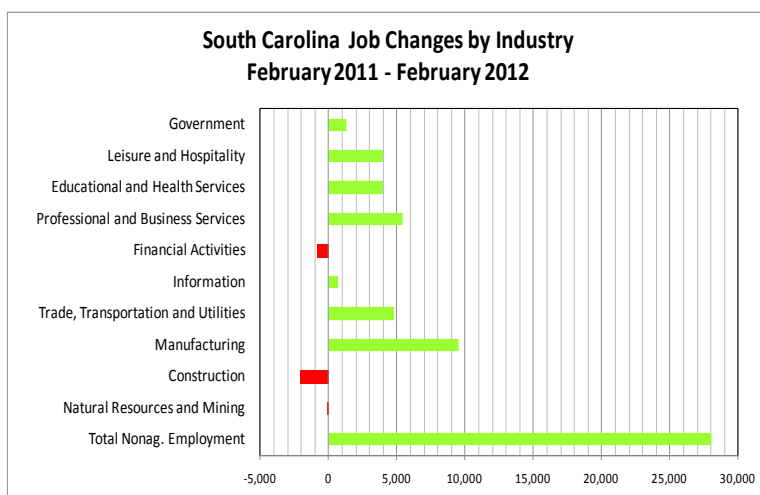
Anderson MSA	9.8%
Charleston-	
North Charleston-	
Summerville MSA	7.8%
Columbia MSA	8.1%
Florence MSA	10.5%
Greenville MSA	7.7%
Myrtle Beach-	
North Myrtle Beach-	
Conway MSA	12.3%
Spartanburg MSA	9.5%
Sumter MSA	10.7%

South Carolina Monthly Employment Trends

South Carolina saw further positive indicators in the not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment, which increased by 17,900 jobs from January to February. Most of the gain (+10,100) was from increases in Education (K-12 schools, and private and public universities) as institutions completed staffing for the spring semester. Three industrial sectors had robust gains in employment: Professional and Business Services (+3,900), Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,200), and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,700). Even though it registered a small gain, Manufacturing (+300) continued to grow. Retail Trade reflected its usual decline (-1,700) for this time of year, while Financial Services fell (-1,000).

Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Columbia (+3,300), Greenville (+1,800), Spartanburg (+700), and Myrtle Beach (+700) saw the largest increases. Charleston (+600) and Sumter (+300) noted smaller gains, and Anderson experienced a decline (-600). Since February 2011, South Carolina has seen an overall increase of 28,000 jobs. Manufacturing led the over-the-year rise with an estimated 9,500 additional jobs. Employment Services (a subset of Professional and Business Services) climbed 5,200, and Leisure and Hospitality rose 4,000. Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,800) and Transportation and Warehousing (+2,900) also added to the gains in the last twelve months.

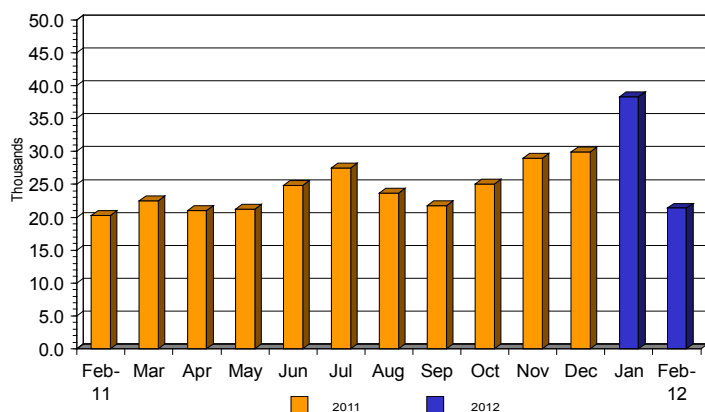
Since February 2011, the state has seen growth primarily in the private sector. Trade and Transportation, Leisure and Hospitality, and Professional and Business Services have been bright spots for the state. Transportation Equipment, along with Primary Metal and Fabricated Metal has led the Manufacturing segment. Combined, these sectors have continued to move the state forward in job growth. The state's job growth outlook remains optimistic for the near future, especially in the Leisure and Hospitality/Tourism-related industry. Many recent job announcements in the Manufacturing sector bode well for mid-term and long-term outlook.



February Initial Unemployment Claims

Initial claims for February, followed the annual trend they have for several years, with January numbers being high and February showing a significant drop. Initial claims plunged 16,971 from January. Regular unemployment benefits paid during February also dropped \$8,675,287. The number of regular benefits exhaustions decreased 1,514 from January to February. The weekly benefits averaged \$236.53.

S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims*
February 2011 through February 2012



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	21,392
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$31,603,141
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,855
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	15.1
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$236.53

* All programs

Labor Supply versus Labor Demand

SC Workforce Areas:

Catawba

Chester County
Lancaster County
York County

Greenville

Greenville County

Lowcountry

Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County
Jasper County

Lower Savannah

Aiken County
Allendale County
Bamberg County
Barnwell County
Calhoun County
Orangeburg County

Midlands

Fairfield County
Lexington County
Richland County

Pee Dee

Chesterfield County
Darlington County
Dillon County
Florence County
Marion County
Marlboro County

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County
Lee County
Sumter County

Trident

Berkeley County
Charleston County
Dorchester County

Upper Savannah

Abbeville County
Edgefield County
Greenwood County
Laurens County
McCormick County
Newberry County
Saluda County

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County
Oconee County
Pickens County

Online job advertisements in South Carolina had an increase of approximately 900 (to 50,900) ads from January to February, as reported by the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, which is an independent business and research association working in the public interest. This represents a gain in job advertisements of approximately 1,000 online postings from a year ago. On the national level, there was a similar rise in total ads (+39,900) for February.

Ads were most significant in the Trident workforce area (10,635) and the Midlands area (9,879). Of all online ads, Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (10,005) had the highest number of advertisements in the state. The jobseeker per job opening rate was 3.9 in February, dipping slightly from 4.0 in January.

The table below shows a breakdown of numbers and a ratio and of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas February 2012 Data	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
Catawba	2,221	17,556	8:1
Greenville	8,620	16,319	2:1
Lowcountry	2,596	9,122	4:1
Lower Savannah	1,979	15,370	8:1
Midlands	9,879	26,411	3:1
Pee Dee	2,636	18,307	7:1
Santee-Lynches	1,315	10,125	8:1
Trident	10,635	25,744	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,181	11,357	10:1
Upstate	3,231	17,462	5:1
Waccamaw	4,145	20,581	5:1
Worklink	2,553	16,124	6:1
South Carolina (SC)	50,900 (SA)	196,746 (SA)	4:1
United States (U.S.)	4,423,300 (SA)	12,800,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

Sources:

- Help Wanted Online (HWOL), a service of The Conference Board;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information